



Major Llontha Llenoi HOLLAND

[1898 – 1943]



Name: Llontha Llenoi **HOLLAND**

Rank: Major

Service Number: NX70578

Unit: 2/3 Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur*

Service: Australian Army

Born: 26 October 1898; Warwick, Qld

Enlisted: 3 January 1941; Paddington, NSW

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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Date of Death: 14 May 1943 (aged 44 years)

Place of Death: At sea, off Brisbane, Qld

Cause of Death: Drowned by Enemy Action

Buried / Commemorated: Sydney Memorial Rookwood Necropolis, NSW [panel 1]
Australian War Memorial [panel 87]
Scots Kirk, Mosman, NSW

Next of Kin: Son of Thomas John and Mary Holland
Husband of Dr Lorna Durie (Beveridge) Holland of North
Sydney, NSW

In Civilian Life:

At enlistment, lived at Turramurra, N.S.W. with his wife; and was a medical practitioner (nicknamed "Dutchie")

He attended Fort Street Boys High School, and the University of Sydney (Wesley College). M.B. (1920), Ch.M. (1921) MRACP (1938)

Military Service:

December 1940	Captain (CMF)
January 1941	to AIF
April 1941	Embarked for Middle East – RMO 17 Infantry Training Battalion and MO 5 Australian General Hospital
March 1942	Returned to Australia – posted 102 AGH
July 1942	Temporary Major
February 1943	Posted 2/3 Australian Hospital Ship "Centaur"
May 1943	Reported "Missing believed drowned as a result of enemy action"
July 1943	Recorded as "Drowned as a result of enemy action".

Circumstances of Death:

Major Holland was a Medical Officer on 2/3 Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur*.

Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur* served as a medical transport between New Guinea and Australia. Before dawn on 14 May 1943, while on her second voyage, *Centaur* was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine off North Stradbroke Island, Queensland. The majority of the 332 aboard died in the attack; the 64 survivors had to wait for 36 hours before they were rescued. The incident resulted in public outrage as attacking a hospital ship was considered a war crime under the 1907 Hague Convention. Protests were made by the Australian and British governments to Japan and efforts were made to discover the people responsible so they could be tried at a war crimes tribunal. Despite this, it was not until the 1970s that identity of the attacking submarine, *I-177*, became public. The wreck of *Centaur* was found on 20 December 2009.

Sources included:

- Australian War Memorial
- National Archives of Australia
- Sundry web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents